

Claims.

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1. Covering, in particular a floor, ceiling or wall covering, characterised in that it at least consists of a number of successive panels (2) on the one hand, and of fixing means (3) therefor on the other hand, which
- 10 fixing means comprise holders (4) which, by means of fixing parts (10-11-12-13), retain the panels (2) in a disconnectable manner over a part of the thickness of the panels (2).
- 15 2. Covering according to claim 1, characterised in that the panels (2) are mounted in rows, and in that these panels (2), after they have been mounted, can be removed, at least irrespective of the panels (2) which are situated in the adjacent rows on either side.
- 20 3. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holders (4) are each provided with at least two fixing parts (10-11-12-13) made in one piece with them, which can co-operate with two
- 25 edges or portions of one and the same panel (2) respectively, in particular with the opposite edges (6-7) thereof, or with portions situated in the vicinity thereof.
- 30 4. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holders (4) consist of separate elements which can be fixed on a base, whereby each holder (4) can mainly co-operate with one panel (2).
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- 5 5. Covering according to claim 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that the holders (4) consist of elements which can be fixed on a base, whereby each holder (4) contains fixing means (3) which can co-operate with several panels (2) situated next to one another.
- 10 6. Covering according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the holders (4) are each provided with two fixing parts (12-10) which can co-operate with the edges or with portions situated near the edges respectively, of two adjacent panels (2).
- 15 7. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the above-mentioned holders (4) co-operate with a spacer, in particular a profile (55) upon or onto which they are mounted.
- 20 8. Covering according to any of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that each holder (4) concerned is provided with a stopping part (23) with which said holder (4) can be positioned against a part of the covering (1) which has already been installed, either against a holder (4) thereof, or against a panel (2) thereof.
- 25 9. Covering according to claim 8, characterised in that the stopping part (23) is formed of a protruding lip which functions as a spacer.
- 30 10. Covering according to claim 8 or 9, characterised in that the holder (4) has a design, on the side where the stopping part (23) is situated on the one hand, and on the opposite side thereof on the other hand, such that when several of said holders (4) are mounted one after the other, the stopping part (23) of the one holder (4)
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can be freely brought up against the edge (6) of the panel (2) which is being held by the other holder (4).

- 5 11. Covering according to claim 10, characterised in that every holder (4) concerned is provided with at least one stopping part (23) on one edge, and is provided, opposite every stopping part (23), with a portion which leaves the edge (6) of a clamped-in panel (2) free, in particular in the shape of a recess (24).
- 10 12. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holders (4) are provided with clamping means (31) with which they can be snapped-in on an underlying structure.
- 15 13. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holder (4) is provided with fixing parts (10-11-12-13) which co-operate with the panels (2) and in that, at least on one side, every fixing part (10-11 or 12-13) has features which allow for a smooth, lateral, flexible bending, whereas in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the covering (1) is offered a firm interlocking.
- 20 14. Covering according to claim 13, characterised in that the above-mentioned provisions are formed of fixing parts (10-11 or 12-13) which consist of elastically bendable lips which are bent backward out of the plane of the holder (4), and then forward again.
- 30 15. Covering according to claim 14, characterised in that the holders (4) are equipped with a combination of one or several fixing parts (12-13) on the one hand which are formed of elastically bendable lips which are bent backward out of the plane of the holder (4) and then
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5 forward again to further form a hook-shaped part (17), and of one or more fixing parts (10-11) on the other hand which are equipped with a rather rigid hook-shaped part (15), whereby at least one of the fixing parts (10-11 or 12-13) also has an inclined guiding part (16).

10 16. Covering according to claim 14 or 15, characterised in that the elastically bendable lips which are bent backward out of the plane of the holder (4) or such, and then forward again, to this end consist of two parts (28-29) respectively, and in that the second part (29) is made such that, in a state of rest, i.e. when no panel (2) has been provided in it yet, is pressed
15 against the other part (28-51) with a certain force (F), such that the position of the lower end of the second part (29), and thus of the hook-shaped part (17) provided there, is always determined.

20 17. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the panels (2) overlap on the edges (6-7).

25 18. Covering according to claim 17, characterised in that the panels (2) are provided with overlapping parts (25-26) on the opposite edges (6-7), whereby, when mounted, a first part (26) of one panel (2) takes place behind a second part (25) of an adjacent panel (2), and whereby a recess or free portion (27) is provided on the second
30 part (25), such that the accompanying panel (2) can always be freely rotated outward along the first part (26).

35 19. Covering according to claim 17, characterised in that the panels (2), or possibly auxiliary elements working

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5 in conjunction with them, such as strips (37) provided in between them, mesh as such, but nevertheless can still be laterally shifted when mounted, against the spring force of one or several fixing parts (10-11-12-13) provided on the holder (4), whereby the meshing is such that a single panel (2) can be removed from between the adjacent panels (2) by shifting it as mentioned above and by subsequently rotating it.

10 20. Covering according to claim 19, characterised in that every fixing part (10-11) concerned is provided with a guiding part (16) which makes sure that the panels (2), when being pressed in, are shifted laterally to be subsequently shifted back when mounted, whereby said
15 guiding part (16) ensures that the meshing parts concerned first pass one another to subsequently mesh one after the other as a result of the shifting back.

20 21. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holders (4) are equipped with means (41) which ensure a tight grip while said holder (4) is being applied on a base.

25 22. Covering according to claim 21, characterised in that the above-mentioned means (41) consist of points of support (44-45) which are situated on either side of a fixing point (42) and which are made such that the holder (4), in particular its body (9), is slightly bent when being mounted, so that the holder (4) is
30 tightened against the base on said points of support (44-45).

23. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holders (4) are each equipped

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with only one fixing point (42), in particular one opening (14) to apply a nail (43), a screw or such.

24. Covering according to any of the preceding claims,
5 characterised in that the holders (4) are equipped with
positioning means (46) which simplify a positioning in
relation to the base.

25. Covering according to claim 24, characterised in that
10 the positioning means (46) consist of a supporting
surface (47), with which the holder (4) can be
laterally pressed against a lath (5) or such of the
base, which supporting surface (47) preferably forms an
L-shaped seating together with the bottom side of the
15 holder (4).

26. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the panels (2) and/or the fixing parts are provided with bevelled and/or rounded-off edges (49-50) which simplify the turning in and out of such a panel (2).

27. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holders (4) comprise at least two pairs of fixing parts (10-11-12-13) per panel (2) to be held, whereby these pairs are situated on either side of a stopping part (23) situated in the middle.

30 28. Covering according to any of claims 1 to 26,
characterised in that every holder (4) concerned
comprises only one pair of fixing parts per panel (2)
to be held.

29. Covering according to any of the preceding claims,
35 characterised in that the panels (2) mesh on their

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edges (6-7) by means of a tongue and groove joint, either directly or by means of an inserted element such as a strip (37).

- 5 30. Covering according to claim 29, characterised in that the fixing means (3), as well as the above-mentioned tongue and groove joint, enable the panels (2) to be rotated along the side of the tongue (35) during the assembly and disassembly.
- 10 31. Covering according to claim 30, characterised in that it is equipped with provisions as defined in the preceding claims 13 or 14, and in that the above-mentioned provisions are situated along the side of the
- 15 tongue (35).
32. Covering according to claim 29, characterised in that the fixing means (3), as well as the above-mentioned tongue and groove joint, enable the panels (2) to be
- 20 rotated along the side of the groove (36) during the assembly and disassembly.
33. Covering according to claim 32, characterised in that it is equipped with provisions as defined in the
- 25 preceding claims 13 or 14, and in that the above-mentioned provisions are situated along the side of the groove (36).
34. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the panels (2) co-operate
- 30 indirectly on their edges (6-7) by means of inserted elements, such as strips (37) or such.
- 35 35. Covering according to claim 34, characterised in that the above-mentioned elements, in particular the above-

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mentioned strips (37) are connected to one panel (2), such that they always occupy a specific lateral position.

5 36. Covering according to any of the preceding claims,
characterised in that the panels (2) are provided with
coupling parts, in particular in the shape of a tongue
(35) and a groove (36), and in that at least one of
these coupling parts is situated outside the
0 accompanying fixing parts (10-11, 12-13) when mounted.

37. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the panels (2) are provided with parts fitting one after the other, in particular coupling parts, preferably in the shape of a tongue (35) and a groove (36), and in that the part which is situated on one longitudinal edge of these panels (2), extends up to the vicinity of the fixing part (12) of a following panel (2) to be mounted.

38. Covering according to claim 37, characterised in that the above-mentioned part extends to underneath the above-mentioned fixing part (12) and/or up to a distance (D4) past this fixing part (12).

39. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the panels (2) consist of laths.

30 40. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the panels (2) are provided with connecting means on their crosscut sides, such as for example a tongue (39) and a groove (40) respectively.

41. Covering according to claim 40, characterised in that
35 the connecting means provide for an interlocking, both

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in a direction which is at right angles to the surface of the covering (1) and in a direction which is parallel to the surface of the covering (1).

- 5 42. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the panels (2) have a massive core.
- 10 43. Covering according to claim 42, characterised in that the panels (2) consist of wood or a product on the basis of wood, in particular MDF, HDF or such.
- 15 44. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holders (4) are provided with fixing parts (10-11 or 12-13) on one side which are formed of a rigid, hook-shaped part (15 or 17).
- 20 45. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that two or more panels (2) are connected at their crosscut ends by means of an accessory (61), consisting of a body (62) and bent edges (63-64) formed on said body (62) which co-operate with the edges of the panels (2).
- 25 46. Covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is realised as a floor covering, whereby the holders (4) consist of strips, whereby the fixing means (3) are formed of fixing parts (10-12) protruding from the surface of these strips.
- 30 47. Holder for realising a covering according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the holder (4) has one or several of the characteristics as described in any of claims 1 to 46.
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48. Panel for realising a covering, in particular a covering (1) for ceilings and/or walls, characterised in that it is provided with a profiling on its edges (6-7) or in the direct vicinity thereof, or in another place, so that it can co-operate with a holder (4) as described in any of claims 1 to 46.

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10 49. Method for installing a covering according to any of claims 1 to 46, characterised in that use is made of panels (2) which are provided with a tongue (35) and a groove (36) respectively on at least two opposite edges (5-6) which can work in conjunction when assembled, whereby the method mainly consists in that holders (4) are first mounted with fixing parts (10-11-12-13) which can work in conjunction with the above-mentioned panels (2), in particular holders (4) as described in any of claims 1 to 46, and in that the panels (2) are then provided in the holders (4) by first hooking them in with one edge and by then rotating them into the plane of the covering (1) to be realised, whereby not only the panels (2) are fixed between the fixing parts of the above-mentioned holders (4), but also the above-mentioned tongue (35) and groove (36) are coupled.

25 50. Method according to claim 49, characterised in that the panels (2) are shifted with their edge which is provided with the groove (36) over the tongue (35) of the preceding panel (2), or vice versa, whereas the accompanying interlocking part of the holder (4) is laterally bent, such that a hooking-in is realised on the opposite interlocking part.

35 51. Method for disassembling a covering according to any of claims 1 to 46, characterised in that one proceeds in the opposite sense of claim 49 or 50.